U. S. European Command

The Need for Deployment Support

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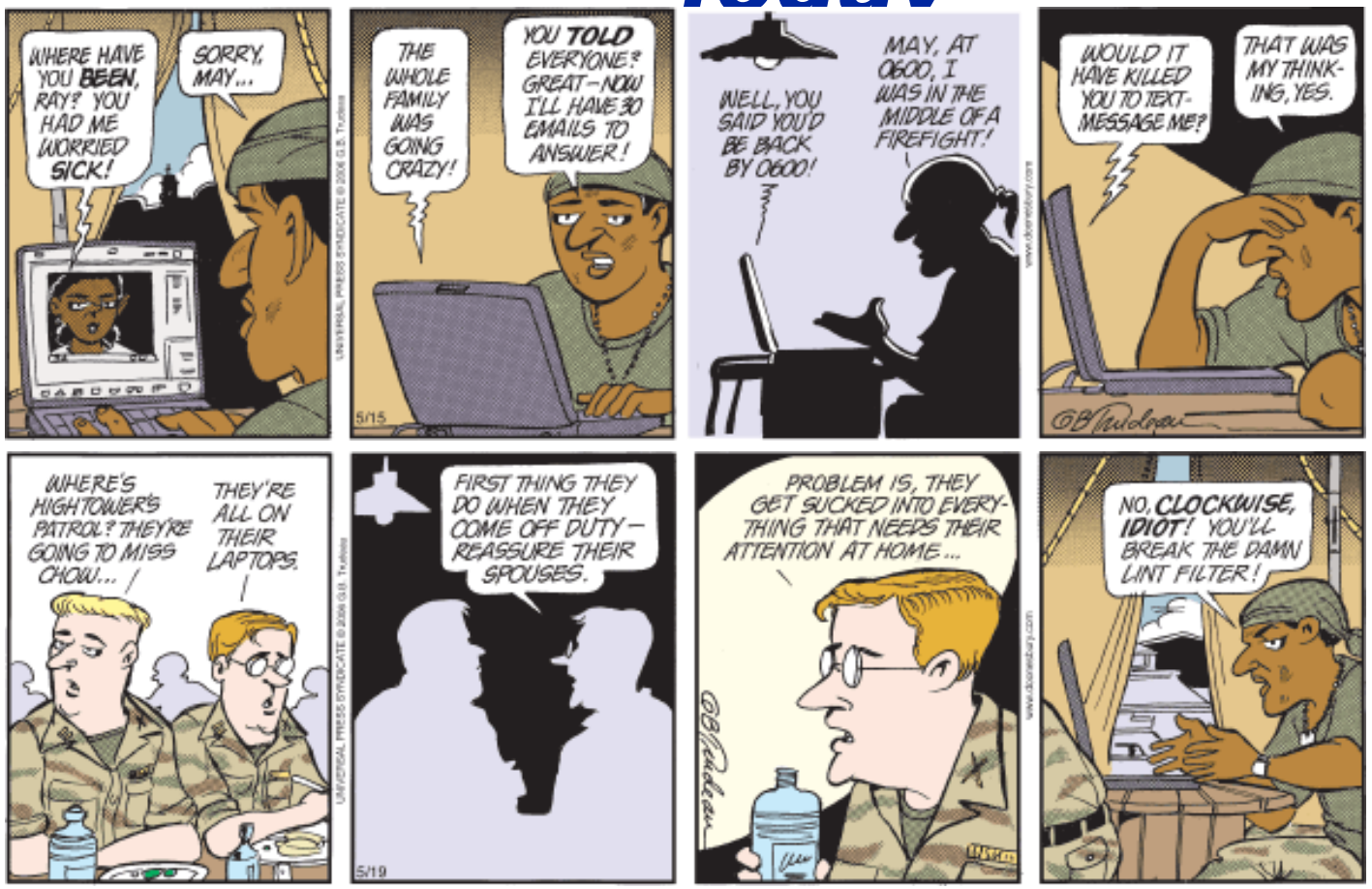
Spouse Communications History

Family Decision Making

- Revolutionary War…letter and response ~12 months
- Civil War…letter and response ~8 months
- World War I and World War II…letter and response ~4 mo
- Gulf War…letter and response 1+ month, occasional pho
- Global War on Terrorism…instant communications

Spouse Communications Today



communications speed = better communications

Thoughts for Success with Instant Communications

- Education and Awareness
- Can’t Win if you Don’t Play
- Resolve Issue Prior to Crises

Education and Awareness

- Stick to the facts, consistent message at <u>both</u> end
  - tactical patience…1st report rarely correct
  - often, no news is good news

- Repetition…remind families of available services
  - Leadership (volunteer) turnover…continual trainin

- Chain of command works both ways

Can’t Win if you Don’t Play

- Exceptional support programs but worthless w/o participation
  - but, can’t make them play (and many don’t need to!)
  - keep positive, keep preaching, wear them down

- Senior leaders influence participation…especially counseling

Resolve Issue Prior to Crises

- separate “wheat from the chafe”
  - recognize real issues and solve
  - tough love as required
  - no “one size fits all” solutions- individuals

- keep warfighter focused on mission
  keep family/community focused on mission

Conference Relevance

- 4 days of work invaluable to GWOT success
- Key Commander tool, more important than ever
- Combat multiplier…keep soldier oriented on mission
- Counseling Support linked to Community Support

Sincere appreciation for your support of the deployed soldier- make a huge difference!